

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
8. (cancelled)
9. (cancelled)
10. (cancelled)
11. (cancelled)
12. (cancelled)
13. (cancelled)
14. (cancelled)
15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) A digital rights source for encoding a digital rights key, the digital rights key having a signature and permission information, wherein the permission information comprises a destination identifier and a type designation ~~a OLE_LINK1security parameter index OLE_LINK1and a signature~~, the digital rights source comprising:

a selector for selecting a security parameter index among a plurality of security parameter indexes;

a digital signature calculation block operatively coupled to the selector to receive the selected security parameter index and to calculate a digital signature using the selected security parameter index and permission information; and

an assembler operatively coupled to the digital signature calculation block to assemble the digital rights key using the calculated digital signature and the permission information.

17. (original) A digital rights source according to claim 16,

wherein the digital rights key has permission information in clear text; and

wherein the assembler assembles the digital rights key using at least the clear text permission information; and

wherein the digital signature calculation block calculates the digital signature using at least the clear text permission information.

18. (cancelled)

19. (original) A digital rights source according to claim 16,

wherein the permission information of the digital rights key comprises a feature ID and a number of feature units; and

wherein the assembler assembles the digital rights key using at least the feature ID and a number of feature units.

20. (cancelled)

21. (original) A digital rights source according to claim 16, wherein the Assembler comprises an XML encoder operatively coupled to the digital signature calculation block and to receive the permission information to provide XML tags surrounding the permission information and the digital signature to produce at least one digital rights key.

22. (previously presented) The digital rights key encoded by the digital rights source of claim 16.

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)

26. (previously presented) A digital rights client for decoding the digital rights key encoded by the digital rights source of claim 16.

27. (cancelled)

28. (new) A digital rights source for encoding a digital rights key, the digital rights key having permission information, and a signature, the digital rights source comprising:

a digital signature calculation block for calculating a digital signature using at least the permission information;
and

an assembler to assemble at least one digital rights key using the calculated digital signature and permission information comprising an XML encoder operatively coupled to the digital signature calculation block to receive the permission information and provide XML tags surrounding the permission information and the digital signature when assembling the at least one digital rights key.

29. (new) A digital rights source according to claim 28,

wherein the permission information of the digital rights key further comprises a security parameter index;

wherein the digital rights source further comprises a selector for selecting a security parameter index among a plurality of security parameter indexes; and

wherein the digital signature calculation block is operatively coupled to the selector to receive the selected security parameter index and to calculate a digital signature using the selected security parameter index and permission information.

30. (new) A digital rights source according to claim 29,

wherein the permission information of the digital rights key further comprises a destination identifier; and

wherein the assembler assembles the digital rights key using at least the destination identifier.

31. (new) A digital rights source according to claim 30,

wherein the permission information of the digital rights key further comprises a type designation; and

wherein the assembler assembles the digital rights key using at least the type designation.

32. (new) A digital rights source according to claim 31,

wherein the permission information of the digital rights key further comprises a feature ID and a number of feature units; and

wherein the assembler assembles the digital rights key using at least the feature ID and a number of feature units.

33. (new) A digital rights source according to claim 28,

wherein the digital rights key has permission information in clear text; and

wherein the assembler assembles the digital rights key using at least the clear text permission information; and

wherein the digital signature calculation block calculates the digital signature using at least the clear text permission information.

34. (new) The digital rights key encoded by the digital rights source of claim 28.

35. (new) A digital rights client for decoding the digital rights key encoded by the digital rights source of claim 28.